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DFWFM Conference Call Notes

Date: May 14, 2013

Central Office

Faline Haven – Acting Chief Forester

- May 3, the Regions completed Budget Execution Models and entered into WebBP to justify Regional funding levels to prevent taking furloughs. As of now, BIA has only issued an intent to furlough and unless an actual decision letter is issued, employees are not to schedule or implement furlough days.
- Regions need to review the DFWFM Conference Call notification lists and identify who backups will be to maintain regional attendance on the monthly conference call
- To improve the planning and participation during monthly calls, Central Office will develop a conference call agenda and send to the regions. To assist with this, each month:
 - Regional Foresters/ FMOs have been requested to identify issues/ concerns to discuss with the group ahead of time to be included in the agenda.
 - Each Month – at least one item from the Region should be reported during the call to identify concerns/ activities.
- Budget Allocation – In the FY13 budget, there was a 5.21% cut to the base funding, with an additional 8% cut that will take place in FY14. To accomplish this reduction, BIA DFWFM is changing its budget process. A call will be organized by Faline in the next two weeks to review and evaluate the current budget process.
 - These changes are intended to be transparent, consistent and provide accountability for where BIA is allocating its funding.
- Forest Health Projects and Funding
 - The FS received \$4.5M in requests this year. While BIA generally receives the highest amount of funding for projects annually (about \$1M), BIA anticipates \$600,000 - \$700,000 in funding this year. Further information about project funding is forthcoming.
- John Basque – Handbook Updates
 - Volume 3 and Volume 4 of the Silviculture Handbooks are in progress. Currently taking working on the B-Provisions Project, which is nearing completion. Working with TAAMs records to develop an electronic version. Projects hope to be complete by March of 2014.
- Forestry TAAMs training was approved for a final class. John B. is the class coordinator. A blanket Mission-Critical Travel memo for the regions will be put together to approve travel.

Aaron Baldwin, Resource Protection

- LANDFIRE docs did go out. Henry Bastion is putting together a cheat sheet on how to use.
- IPP System for Reimbursement Funds – BIA is looking for a faster, easier mechanism to process/ pay invoices. Four Tribes in the SW signed up to use this year.

BOFRP

Mike Benedict, Branch Chief

- National Indian Management Handbook – two people have made comments. Would like to receive more feedback.
- Bill Yemma is working on a 2 month detail to work with TAAMs material.

Dave Wilson, Forester

- Working to hit completion targets for Management Plans. Several projects are in the hopper to go, but waiting on funding to execute.

Bill Yemma, Forester

- A-123s are due to Yemma by May 24 for processing.

ITC

Don Motanic

- Working on the ITC Symposium. Need assistance with raffle funds and purchasing tickets. Can ship raffle items
- Wrapping up IFMAT Report. Final Draft is nearing completion. The Report will be going to print soon.
- A technology demonstration for a mobile kiln will be taking place in Pendleton May 24th

Regions

- **Alaska** – Waiting on the waiver to make an offer for the Regional Forester Position. Have not heard from the hiring committee
- **Northwest** – Received confirmation for FMIP Forester and Wildlife Biologist, which was forwarded to Central Office.
- **Pacific** – Since 2009, the only tribe able to do logging was Hoopa. This year, there are more bid openings able to be done.
- **Western** – San Carlos is working on Wallow Fire Salvage project and hopefully will be done soon. Fort Apache is working on two new projects; carbon credits and new market tax credits. Within-region travel restrictions are slowing the ability to accomplish missions.
 - San Carlos IHC was put on the board and is working on prescribed fire projects this week in the Point of Pines area.
 - Fort Apache is going through their training this week to come on the board.
- **Southwest** – Santa Clara Pueblo is working on Las Conchas salvage logging.
- **Navajo** – Purchased a portable mill, but it broke. Will write a plan to get in the loop about the paid permit process.
- **Southern Plains** – not on call
- **Eastern OK** – not on call
- **Midwest** – Two large fires in Red Lakes are currently burning.
- **Rocky Mtn** – Discussed issues taking place that involve travel clearance.
- **Great Plains** – In Red Flag conditions
- **Eastern** – Fire Trespass case submitted to the solicitor that and onto the U.S. Attorney's Office. Currently in consultation process.

NIFC

Lyle Carlile, Fire Director

- Attending NWCG Meeting

Bob Roberts, Assistant Fire Director

- Redid the exceptions list for PFTs. The list was shortened and resubmitted to Central Office.
- Seasonal Positions were approved. Reg. Directors will be given memo to clarify position approvals.
- Agreement Templates have been altered. Will be putting a call together for Reg. FMOs to discuss.

Gini Broyles, Admin Officer

- Updating the 2008 EERA Operations Plan and working with the Regions to address issues with FBMS.
- Contracting Officer's should ensure EERA invoices are being entered in Federal Procurement Data System - Next Generation (FPDS-NG).

David Peters, Budget Officer

- CR2- Partial 1 is in the BIA account as of 5/17
- CR2 - Partial 2 signed and at Treasury; should be in BIA account in a week (around 5/24)
- CR2 - Full Amount, should be sent from BIA NIFC to BIA Office of Budget Management (Thompson's office) around 5/28
- CR2 should return to BIA NIFC for distribution to Regions around June 11.
- The CR2 funding applies to Preparedness and Fuels as far as FED's
- Hurricane Sandy - sent Midwest Region reimbursement paperwork to FS 5/20. A letter and example package was sent to Northwest, Eastern, Rocky Mountain, Southwest and Western Regions on 5/20, requesting complete reimbursement packages, since opportunity for FEMA reimbursement could go away in the next month.

Robyn Broyles, Fire Comm/Ed Specialist

- Social Media Policy for the Office of Trust Services was submitted to Central Office to begin the vetting process. When approved, they will be sent to Regional Directors and Agency Offices. Individual training and review of the Policy will be given via webinars following the approval of the Policy.

Mark Jackson, Associate Director – Fuels

- San Carlos Fuels Story was completed. A communication plan for sharing it will be developed.
- FY14 Fuels budget – For those that have unfilled positions/ detail opportunities – check with NIFC first before filling. May need to work with Regions to combine positions/ responsibilities across regions, recognizing multi-region travel makes things more challenging.
- FY14 Process to allocate funding to bureaus will be similar to FY13. Still working on the process on how to encode acres into NFPOs for internal budgeting purposes.

Sam Scranton, Deputy Fuels

- Prevention received \$300,000 from recent CR. A plan is being developed for distribution.

Joel Kerley, Aviation Manager

- Recall on flight helmets (BIA had 35-50 of them) took place. A retrofit needs to take place to make worthy for flight. All flight helmets will be sent to NIFC where the NIFC ramp services will take two days to complete the retrofit. NIFC will pay for the retrofit.
- Large Airtanker contracts were awarded by the FS last week. The FS is still doing testing. The fire community will see them this year.
- BIA Aviation Call took place last week. Managers discussed a staffing plan. Without considering furlough, we will be dropping below national minimums, and therefore be unable to meet national qualifications. There is a need to determine where shortages are occurring to develop a proposal to see what it will cost to meet 7-day coverage. Some crews are working at a 5-day schedule while the aircraft is being paid for 7-day schedule.
- Hurdles in Travel – One reported incident occurred last week. A PTSD fire inside the aircraft. BIA was unable to get the right people in place to conduct the AAR due to travel restrictions, and leadership was not able to be present to provide the crew with an AAR necessary.

Scott Bradshaw, Associate Director, Planning

- Planners are consolidating the Fire Program Status data and working on writing the report.

Tony Beita, National Safety Specialist

- The WFSTR website is working well for refreshers.
- Medical Standards Program is caught up with the waivers. If you know you are going to have folks needing one in the future, work with Tony to get them taken care of.
- There is a memo about AD EMTs and some of the changes taking place the FS sent out. The Risk Management Committee will be sending out an Advisory to match the FS memo. The IQCS positions have been created
- There was a FS employee killed last week working on a fuels project. There was no 24 or 72 hrs report submitted.

Dalan Romero, Associate Director, Operations

- Crew Buggies were picked up this week for three IHCs

Regions

- **Alaska** – Fuels projects were completed are being reviewed
- **Eastern** – Activity is winding down. Resources are available. 18 more days until hurricane season starts again.
- **Navajo** – Hotshots came on April 25. Working with an arson issue in Shiprock and ordered an Arson Investigator.
- **Pacific** – Two weeks ago, strong round of fires occurred. Had a few days of rain, mitigated activity. Pacific is 4-6 weeks ahead of schedule.
 - Ron Recker will be retiring, effective June 30, 2013.
- **Rocky Mountain** – Red Flag conditions this week. Beaverhead and Dear Lodge working on a 200 ac. wildfire
- **Southwest** – Dry and picking up small fires. All seasonals are in place to staff engines. Trying to fill holes from folks who have retired. Zuni IHCs are working to hire a couple more seasonals before they are to come on.

- **Western** – Having trouble hiring seasonals despite vacancies that have been open for a year. The helicopter at Fort Apache and San Carlos is on.
- **OK City** – Minimal fire activity this week. Looking for storms over the next couple days. Tornado season is going to be starting soon also.

Next Fire-only Conference Call: May 28

Send agenda items to Robert.Carlile@bia.gov

Next DFWFM Conference Call Scheduled: June 11

Send agenda items to Faline.Haven@bia.gov